

at this gathering, I take this opportunity to pay high tribute to his 44 years of public service and thank him for blazing a path for subsequent generations of Americans, especially Hispanics, pursuing the nobelist ideals of public office.

The accomplishments of the Honorable HENRY B. GONZALEZ in public office, particularly in the last 36 years in Congress, are substantial. He shepherded 71 bills through enactment, ranging from abolishing the poll tax, which was still in effect in the early 1960's, to restoring the strength of our Nation's deposit insurance system. While he was chairman, the House Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs Committee held more than 500 hearings on financial issues that affected consumers, small businesses, and banks. Through his investigative powers Chairman GONZALEZ wielded substantial influence in combating financial crimes. Chairman GONZALEZ championed legislation enabling small businessowners to secure credit essential to the prosperity of their enterprises. And let us not forget that Dean GONZALEZ was instrumental in reauthorizing Federal housing laws, providing shelter for thousands of families throughout the country.

Always doing what he believed to be right rather than what was popular, Dean GONZALEZ made superlative use of special orders in the House Chamber. He alerted all of us to the impending savings and loan crisis years before the industry collapsed; he educated the Nation about the culture and contributions of Mexican-Americans. In recent years, his most popular special orders were about history: his own, the history of San Antonio and Texas, and the history of the founding of our Federal Government.

The Honorable HENRY B. GONZALEZ' accomplishments are many and his legacy is an inspiration to us all, but especially our youth. As the chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I thank Dean GONZALEZ, for blazing a path for ensuing generations of Hispanic leaders. His dedication to public service and the many contributions to his community, the State of Texas and our Nation were accomplished with tenacity, passion, and a tireless work ethic. Integrity was his hallmark. Our youth, who are certain to achieve great accomplishments of their own, will 1 day look upon the legacy of HENRY B. GONZALEZ for inspiration and pride.

Mr. Speaker, on this auspicious occasion I ask my colleagues to join me and the people of San Antonio in saluting a great friend and grand American: the Honorable HENRY B. GONZALEZ. He will always be an exemplary leader * * *. He will always be HENRY B.

WALTER GREFFE: SELFLESS
CITIZEN

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to my friend and constituent, Walter Greffe, who passed away this Veterans Day weekend at the age of 71. Walter Greffe was a special individual who will be greatly missed but fondly remembered.

After graduating from Morristown High School in 1944, Walt served our Nation as a

sergeant in the Army Air Corps during World War II. However, his service did not end when the bombs stopped falling and the troops came home. I have the pleasure of being a member of the same VFW and American Legion posts to which Walt dedicated so much of his time. In particular, his service to the Veteran of Foreign Wars Watnong Post 3401 was extraordinary. Walt was twice the commander of the Watnong Post, one of New Jersey's largest VFW posts. Walt, along with his wife, Mae, continued to volunteer their time and talents for the hundreds of events at the Watnong Post, including many events for senior citizen groups and even some of my own Medicare town meetings.

In 1953, Walt moved to Morris Plains and immediately became an integral part of this close-knit community of 5,000 inhabitants, aptly called the community of caring. No one in Morris Plains epitomized this more than Walt Greffe. Upon his death, one Morris Plains resident remarked, "Walt was a kind and considerate man who was always willing to do everything for anybody." That is the Walt Greffe I knew as well.

Aside from his involvement with veterans organizations, Walt worked for United Parcel Service in Parsippany for 27 years, and was graduate of the Stafford Hall of Business. He also dedicated untold hours to the Morris Plains Seniors Monday Group, the Rotary Club of Morris Plains, and the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains. As you see, Walt touched every part of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all of my colleagues to join me as we remember Walt in our prayers; Mae, his wife of many years; his son, John; his daughter, Diane; and the many other close family and friends Walt leaves behind. Walt was truly a selfless citizen and an outstanding veteran.

OHIO STATE TREASURER J. KENNETH BLACKWELL ADDRESSES
PROPOSED GLOBAL CLIMATE
TREATY

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I want to insert in the RECORD today an insightful speech delivered at the recent Global Change Conference here in Washington by Ohio's State Treasurer J. Kenneth Blackwell.

As my colleagues know, despite considerable uncertainty about the significance of global warming, the Clinton administration is moving ahead with plans to reduce carbon emissions, or greenhouse gases in the United States to 1990 levels by the year 2010. The costs of achieving that goal, of course, will be absorbed by the American people in the form of higher energy costs and higher taxes.

Mr. Blackwell very eloquently addresses the global warming issue and the fundamental flaws in the Kyoto Climate Change Treaty. I commend his speech to my colleagues.

THE CLIMATE TREATY—THE RIGHT ANSWER TO
THE WRONG QUESTION

As I began preparing for my part in today's discussion, I recalled a remark attributed to J. Pierpont Morgan. A woman is said to have approached him at a social gathering rough-

ly 100 years ago and asked, "Mr. Morgan, what is the stock market going to do?"

Morgan hesitated a moment and then gave the woman the full benefit of his years of money-accumulating experience. "Madam," he said, "the stock market will fluctuate."

If J. Pierpont Morgan had been born 100 years later and specialized in climate instead of money, and if he were asked now what the climate is going to do, the same answer would be appropriate. "Madam, the climate will fluctuate."

I do not mean to suggest by this that we can ignore the possibility that this time Henny Penny may be right. The sky may be warming. The seas may rise. And it would be irresponsible to sit idly by doing nothing if there is a real chance that all the world's coastal cities will go under water in the next 50 or 100 years.

Neither, however, do I believe it responsible to rush to the binding international agreement the Administration is proposing to replace the voluntary approach we agreed to in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

The administration's proposal is a fast answer to incompletely formulated questions based on inadequate data. Fast answers all too often are half-baked. In this case, the kindest thing we can say about the fast answer is that it is not fast at all. At best, it is half fast.

Just for starters, we do not know whether global warming is taking place now. It is true that surface temperature readings have gone up by about one degree Celsius over the past century. Some evidence suggests that over the past decade, however, modest global cooling may have occurred. At this point, we simply do not know. What we do know is that the Climate Treaty will not answer this question. Only time and serious scientific study will produce an answer.

If global warming is taking place, we do not know the extent to which greenhouse gases may be responsible. For years, climatologists believed that the sun's energy output was constant, but I have read recently that some now believe the solar constant may not be constant at all. Variations in solar activity may well account for the one degree rise in global temperature recorded over the past 100 years. This one degree change may be an entirely natural progression following the Little Ice Age which ended about the time Mr. Morgan was sharing his wisdom on the stock market, and it may well prove to be cyclical.

Even if in the face of all the scientific uncertainties, we could properly conclude that capping CO₂ emissions would remove the potential threat of global warming, there is little reason to believe that the Administration's proposal will accomplish that objective. Even its supporters concede that emissions from China and India alone are likely to overwhelm the proposed reductions by the U.S. and Western Europe.

Although the proposed Climate Treaty is not an answer to either the objective of understanding global warming or capping CO₂ emissions, we can be certain that it will accomplish several other objectives. I think it will be helpful to consider some of them.

First, if we want to hasten the day when the United Nations will be transformed from an association of sovereign states into a one-world governing body, the Climate Treaty will work! Some international entity will be necessary to enforce emission mandates. Many Americans bridle at the 55 mile per hour national speed limit. Imagine that fast answer expanded to cover all matters involving energy consumption, and imagine it administered out of Geneva instead of Washington, D.C. That's the path we are on if we accept binding international mandates.

Second, many people complain about the fact that combined federal, state and local

taxes take more of an average household's income than food, clothing and shelter. The Climate Treaty will address that complaint in several ways.

Given the emission caps which would be required by the year 2010, and using mainstream economic assumptions, personal incomes will go down. In my home state of Ohio, real income per capita will drop almost 10 percent, so with no change in our income tax rates, taxpayers will pay less. This will squeeze the State, but we should be able to make up the roughly two percent shortfall in tax revenues.

The good news does not stop with the reduction in income, and therefore income taxes. Housing and food prices will go up about 10 percent, and the cost of clothing will go up along with all other manufactured goods. Some skeptics will argue that the increased cost of the necessities should be accounted for as taxes, but we will at least have the appearance of a change in the relationship of taxes versus basics.

Third, we should see some public health benefits from this proposal. Service jobs are usually less hazardous than manufacturing jobs, so those among the 34,000 Ohioans who lose their manufacturing jobs but exchange them for service jobs may thereby find work where they are less likely to suffer on-the-job injuries. This may not compute, because total employment is projected to fall by more than 58,000 jobs, but even so, workers are surely safer sitting at home than going into the perilous workplace.

And these fortunate Ohioans will be encouraged to improve their health in other ways. Many will almost certainly choose to exercise more, at least during the winter, because their household energy bills will be nine hundred to eleven hundred dollars higher, so they will have to keep moving to stay warm. With food costs up nearly ten percent, meat consumption should go down, still another benefit.

Fourth, increasing the cost of gasoline by fifty cents a gallon will surely reduce exposure to highway accidents. If people cannot afford to drive, they are less likely to be hurt as long as they do not walk on the road.

I would like to wrap up my remarks with a political comment. With the benefit of 20-20 hindsight, it is clear that President George Bush made at least two mistakes in his presidency, both having to do with the timing of major events. First, he should not have won the Gulf War so long before he had to run for re-election—the 1992 outcome would quite likely have been different if he had still had his post-war approval ratings in the 90's. Second, he should not have signed on to the Democratic Party's tax increase so close to the election. President Clinton certainly learned from that mistake!

But on the global warming subject, President Bush was right on the money in 1992 when he agreed to voluntary, not mandatory, CO₂ caps, and to continued scientific scrutiny of the warming phenomenon to see what future action would be indicated, what action would work, and what action would be worth what it cost.

JOPPA-MAGNOLIA VOLUNTEER
FIRE CO., INC.

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to give due recognition to a venerable institution in my district which recently had occasion to

celebrate its past and its future on the very same day.

On October 25, 1997, the Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Co. celebrated the opening of a new main fire station at its Joppa, MD, location. I was fortunate to attend the dedication ceremony along with a number of community and civic leaders. I was especially impressed that the celebration occurred 43 years to the day the first fire station was formally unveiled.

The Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Co. was first organized in 1951. It answered its first call of record on January 11, 1953, and went on to respond to 32 fire and 32 ambulance calls that year. The company has undergone significant expansions over the years, but its essential mission—protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Harford County—has not changed.

Mr. Speaker, the Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Co. is a welcome, permanent institution in Harford County. The fanfare surrounding the most recent groundbreaking indicates that, while the fire company has a rich history of accomplishment, its greatest contributions are yet to come. These fine volunteer firefighters will continue to serve the citizens of Harford County, just as their predecessors have done for four decades. Mr. Speaker, we can all profit by their example. I offer the men and women of the Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Co. my very best wishes and congratulations upon reaching this happy milestone.

IN MEMORY OF THE IRISH FAMINE

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recall the millions of Irish men, women, and children lost to the tragic Irish famine of 1845-50. This was one of the darkest chapters in modern history, and one that changed the face of both the United Kingdom and the United States as a result.

The Irish famine took as many as 1 million lives from hunger and disease. It sparked a huge wave of immigration as another 2 million Irish fled, most of them to the United States.

Numbers such as these, however, are often difficult to comprehend. I find that some of the personal stories of the famine bring it closer to home. Consider these tragic deaths reported in the Cork Reporter of January 11, 1847: Catherine Sheehan, a 2-year-old girl who died the day after Christmas 1846 after eating nothing but seaweed that last several days of her life. John Driscoll, who fell dead of starvation walking home from his job at a public works project after 2 days of nothing but boiled wheat. Michael Linehan, who died on his way home from an adjoining town, where he had gone to purchase food for his fever-stricken mother and brother. Mr. Linehan had had only turnip peels to eat.

These are but a few of the stories of the famine. Many such stories will be recalled as the Bergen County Council of Irish Associations holds a ceremony in solemn remembrance of those who perished in the famine November 15 at the Bergen County Courthouse in Hackensack, NJ. Remarks will be offered by Bishop Charles J. McDonnell, Father Donald Sheehan, and Bergen County Execu-

tive William "Pat" Schuber, and others at the Great Hunger Monument located next to the courthouse. This ceremony will serve as a reminder that the disaster created by famines still haunts the world.

During the Irish famine, a blight turned Ireland's staple crop of potatoes to ruin. Over 1 million people died and millions others were forced to leave their homeland to escape starvation. In 1847—the year known to Irish around the world as "Black '47"—the famine took its worst toll. As thousands died that year, nearly 100,000 Irish immigrants left their homeland and arrived in the United States.

The failure of the British Government in London to provide immediate assistance has been acknowledged as one of the factors in the extent of the famine. Prime Minister Tony Blair this summer offered this apology:

Those who governed in London at the time failed their people through standing by while a crop failure turned into a massive human tragedy. * * * That 1 million people should have died in what was then part of the richest and most powerful nation in the world is something that still causes pain as we reflect on it today.

As I have noted, millions of Irish came to the United States—seen as the land of plenty—to escape the famine. Those who came made up one of the greatest waves of immigration in our history and permanently enriched our society and culture. Their hard work, determination, and resilience helped fuel the tremendous growth of our country.

The Irish quickly adjusted to their new home and started to move up in society. From tough, long hours in labor intensive jobs, Irish-Americans entered professions such as education, politics, and government service by the turn of the century. They sent much of their hard-earned money home to help families or to pay for passage to America.

One area where Irish-Americans proved themselves quickly was in service to their new country. Many new Irish-Americans fought bravely during the Civil War. In fact, 263 Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded to Irish-born servicemen, by far the largest number of any ethnic group. Subsequent generations carried this tradition into the Nation's other wars.

The hard work, determination, patriotism, and valor of Irish-Americans has made a distinguished mark on American history. Their contribution to our Nation will never be forgotten. We only wish that it might have been better circumstances that brought them here.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG SCOTT

HON. JACK METCALF

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I join Senator MURRAY this evening in recognizing Doug Scott, a San Juan Island resident, who was recently presented the Sierra Club's highest tribute—John Muir Award.

Despite differing with him and the Sierra Club on a number of issues, I really appreciate his willingness to work with all interest groups and beliefs to solve environment problems.

His work with the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission, which Senator MURRAY and I